



We're Fighting
For You

Who Me?

and

YOUR Rights

Join the SQUATTERS UNION

Too!

215 Victoria St. (w Pde)
Collingwood.

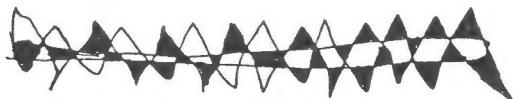
It's 7:30 a.m. I catch the no. 11 tram to work. Looking at the other commuter's faces I wonder why I can't feel any kind of solidarity or collective purposefullness. I know alienation. Emotionally naked, raw like tripe in the Brunswick Street butchers. Emetic.

Can I ever feel a part of all this. These faces of misery. Businessman, factory workers, secretaries, fleas lice vermin shitkickers. Emotionally discharged. Tepid swollen bathwater.

Jesus, the trams going down Latrobe Street, not Collins. Now I'm going to have to walk. I've got a 65¢ ticket.

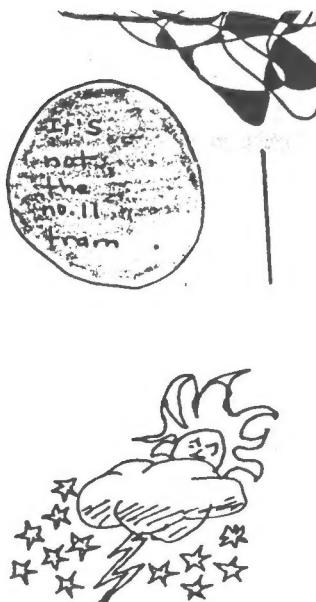
Can I ever belong to this.

Belsen-Bergen is as much a state of mind as a physical reality.



WHITE TEA

The teabags don't work so good the second time around, here in Kensington there's no peace to be found. In one day, and out the next, by the course of justice, I'm left perplexed. Though in we went, hardship most grave, but we were given the same old rave. The Ministry of Housing, tries to bury its mistakes, so it can afford to indulge in retakes. The individual means nothing, to the beaurocrats of the state, less than a stale shit, is all we rate. So now we're homeless, the gutter tonight, it's for naught, we've put up a fight. The teabags don't work so good the second time around, here in Kensington there's no peace to be found.



THORNBURY

Here in Thornbury, by the light of day, I'm nursing a hangover, that won't go away. There's no water to quench my thirst, it's bad news slumming, cause the Ministry of Housing, has wrecked the plumbing. Sitting around, waiting for THEM to arrive, to argue against, the schemes THEY contrive. So let's forge a tram ticket, and go to the R.T.T., and hope this time, we get tennancy.

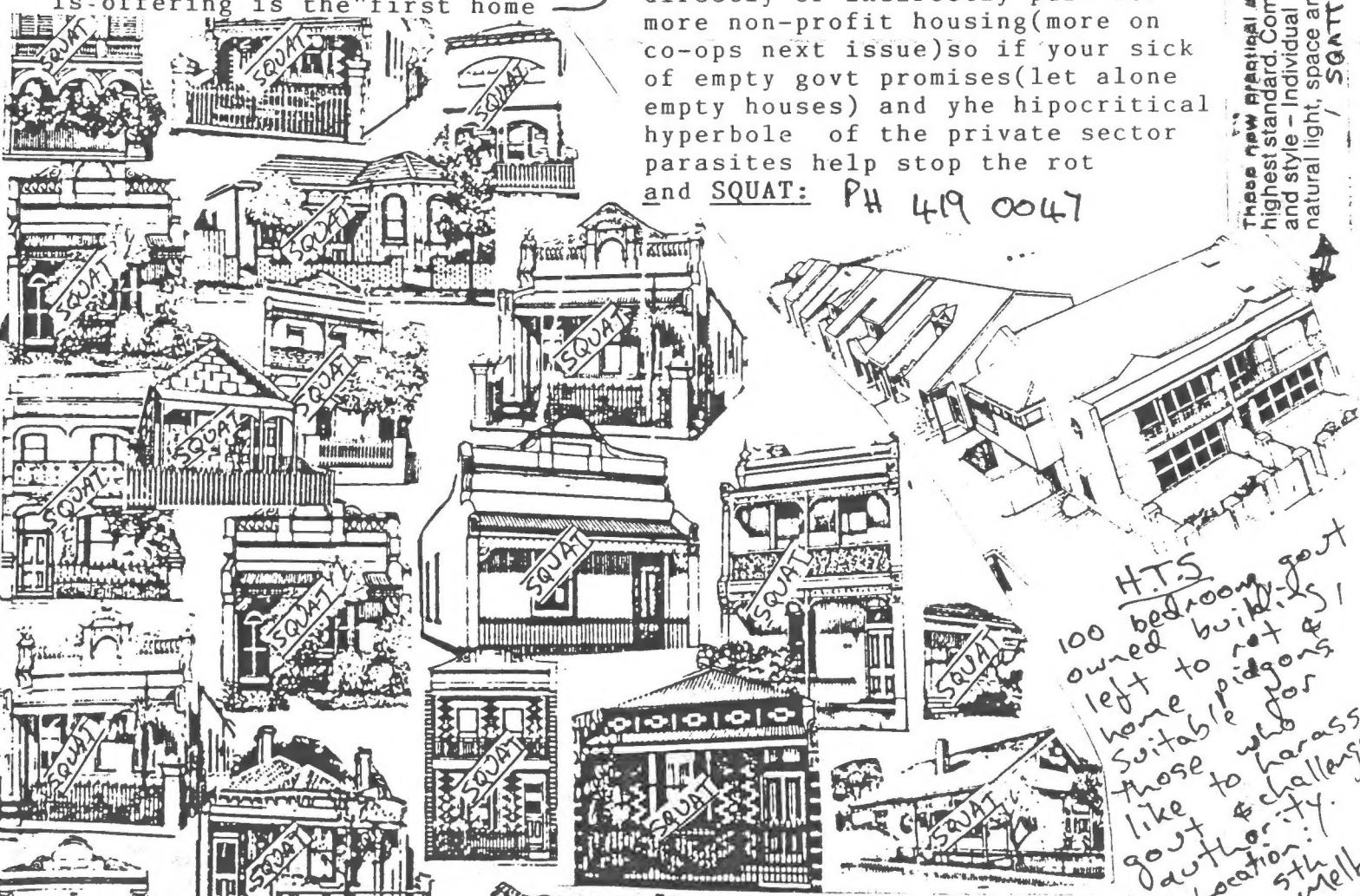


MOVING

Whilst trying to overcome the inertia state, being told to sit and wait, instead of sitting and rotting, I took my rights in hand and took up squatting. What's the ministry trying to prove, when every two months I've got to move, defending a worn out system backs to the wall, makes no sense to me at all. So now and again it's back to the R.T.T., to have the same old rave given at me, I wonder when the barsteds will see, they're off their bloody tree.

1985: what a brilliant year

The myth of the Australian dream "owning your own home" is constantly perpetrated and perceived as the most viable and attractive form of housing available and yet all it does is condemn most people into life-long debt thus denying them of adequate amounts of other basic needs like food and clothing and proving yet another avenue for the rich to increase their profits buying and selling land, keeping prices artificially high (including rents) to increase their revenue at the expense of peoples needs. Successive Australian governments have pursued a full home ownership policy directing massive subsidies towards home buyers to enforce this myth. To strengthen their argument they built monolithic monstrosities to put people off public housing ie to encourage private ownership and ignore all other housing strategies. Centralising those most in need also enforces hierarchies and entrenches bureaucracies with little flexibility and no imagination. A token gesture the present govt is offering is the "first home



HOUSES TO SQUAT HIS

KEW: 22 bedrooms 10 kitchens 5 Bathrooms, Soon to be developed for profit purposes. Must be occupied soon en masse. Soit politically active position with aims of abolishing personal greed orientated profit.

owners scheme "FHOS, but the average income of applicants under FHOS is 80-85% of average weekly earning AWE. Those on pensions and benefits receive less than 25% of AWE thus making the scheme irrelevant to those in greatest housing poverty. To underline further govt insensitivity the current federal minister for housing has un-committed the Labour govt from its election promise to double public housing stock in 10 years and predicted it would probably take 20 years at current funding. And so now we have a situation where those in greatest housing need are put on waiting list up to 7 years long, are unable to enter the private market because of the parasites that control it and make massive profits from it. To me the most viable alternatives are squatting and rental co-ops which directly or indirectly push for more non-profit housing (more on co-ops next issue) so if you're sick of empty govt promises (let alone empty houses) and the hypocritical hyperbole of the private sector parasites help stop the rot

and SQUAT: PH 419 0047

These new practical and functional family houses are nationally finished to the highest standard. Comfort in uncompromised luxury has balanced lines of elegance and style - Individual designs of 2 and 3 bedrooms with open plan living - ample natural light, space and privacy. All colour coordinated with lock-up garage.

49 0047

SQUAT UNION MON 10-5

/

And 1986?

We're waiting for your call

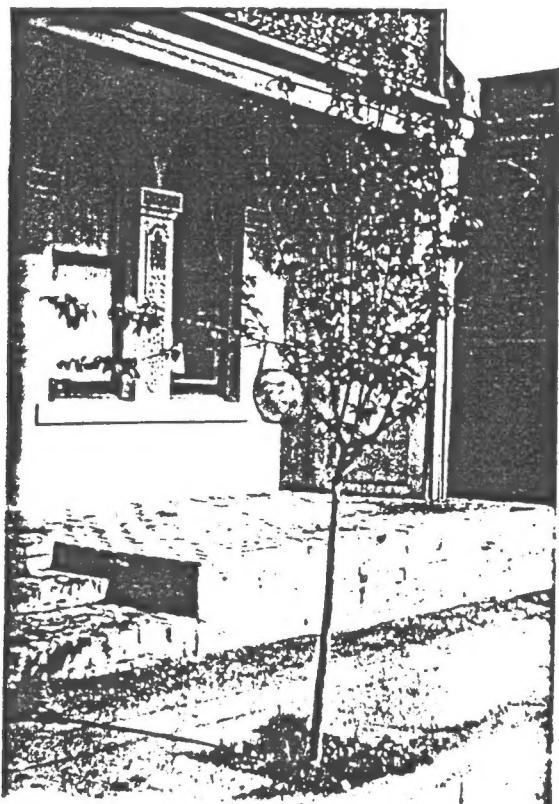
The Gower Street

Education



Gower Street was an education in more ways than one. It gave me a good look at the legal system that controls the public housing, it gave me a lesson on different lifestyles, and it gave me an even harder lesson about people's characters.

As far as I can see, squatting Ministry of Housing houses will always be a lost battle unless a feasible argument can be formulated against the MOH's queue jumping defence. It is not enough to prove your own hardship, you must also disprove theirs. Squatting MOH houses is, however, still a strong political statement, and is absolutely necessary to keep up the pressure on the government to do something about the public housing system.



If the people near the top of the waiting list became interested in squatting, then it is possible that tenancies (and hence, precedents) could result. Unfortunately, most people at the top of the list are worried that squatting may jeopardise their position on the waiting list resulting in a much extended waiting period for a home. This is probably quite true but it could also be used in the squatters' favour, in a case of hardship.

Because of this worry of additional waiting, most of the squatters in the public eye tend to be young and single, thus placing them in the bracket of people least eligible for public housing; another barrier to overcome in the Residential Tenancies Tribunal.

The only defence the squatter has in the RTT is section 135 of the Residential Tenancies Act which says that tenancy should be granted if their hardship (caused by being evicted) is greater than the landlords through letting them stay. Although this argument is no good in the cases involving MOH residences, I think that most other houses, both government and private, would be "fair game" to section 135 because they are not listed as public housing stock. Of course care would still have to be taken in regards to how long they had been empty. (this is especially important in regards private places)

Public relations were a major downfall in regards to Gower Street, with a lot of aggression from the local youths who saw us as second class citizens, and infringers on their territory. This led to them considering our homes as "theirs" and coming into them in the early hours of the morning, uninvited and unwanted. This aggression was compounded by the irresponsibility of some of the squatters through which uninformed locals were abused and pushed on the street. This, of course, enraged the local youth even more as they considered Kensington their beat and therefore only they were allowed to abuse and push the locals.

A lot of good public relations did exist initially, through distributing leaflets and talking to local residents. This got a good response and locals even signed a petition of support for the squats. Unfortunately this initial contact was destroyed by

- (a) the activities of some of the squatters
- (b) abuse of the locals by squatters
- (c) abuse of the squatters by local youth
- (d) lies and half-truths spread about the squats.



Whilst one or two or the squatters were irresponsible, it should be remembered that ALL the squatters were subject to constant harrassment by young locals, drunk and aggressive, at all hours of the night. There were situations where windows were broken and squatters threatened with knives. During all of this harrassment the squatters remained passive and tried to reason with the people involved. Some squatters were even assaulted but raised no finger. Unfortunately the one or two squatters who were making it difficult failed to see the connection between their "high profile" activities and the harrassment.

Had the squatters realised their part in the problem, and rectified it, then all would have been in a much better position to reason with the young people of the area. Also the youth would have had no justification for their attacks and hence no support from the rest of the community. (This grew as the conflict and noise at the squats continued).

If a squat like Gower Street is to be used for political purposes, eg. pressuring the MOH, then I feel it is important to have the right people to squat it. It should be treated as a political action and not confused with the emergency housing side of squatting. People who are not politically 'interested' can be damaging to the squat because they are not conscious of the importance of public relations and public image. This leads to conflict, not only between squatters and the community, but between squatters themselves.

So it would seem to me, that although squatting can be seen, and is, an alternative to the public housing farce, it should never become confused with the political side.

Nor should it be allowed to get in the way of political squatting (with exceptions of course), since it is unlikely that squatting will ever become accepted as a 'legal form of obtaining housing.

M.T. HOLMES. SQUATTERS UNION VICTORIA
215 VICTORIA PARADE COLLINGWOOD 3066 4190047



ODDESSEY OF TENANTS:

Three weeks ago my household received its eviction day date at the Residential Tenancy Tribunal : 24/12/'85, Xmas Eve. If we are not out by then the landlord has promised to throw us, and all our belongings, onto the street; some Xmas present!

Three household members have been evicted eight times in five years. This is my second eviction for '85. Why were we evicted, what is our crime?

Poverty is our crime. We quite simply cannot afford the rents demanded by landlords. Half our income goes on rent, the other half on subsistence products such as food. This excludes all luxury items such as new clothes; or anything new for that matter.

In a society as affluent as Australia the fact that people cannot housing or basic food stuffs is a moral and ethical outrage. Some affluence, better to call it the power of the effluent society.

So on Xmas day, at least half (4 people) will be homeless, the other half being able to afford to move. Half my household cannot afford moving expenses, cannot afford the expenses of a new house (bond, utility connection fees, etc.), and cannot realistically afford rent above \$25 per week. Rent in Melbourne is never this low anymore.

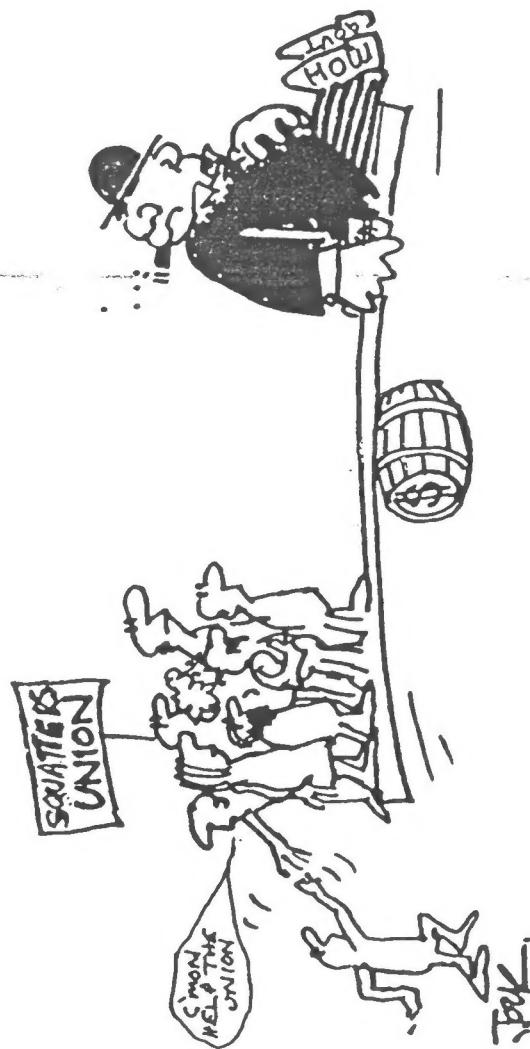
Like so many people, these four people are too afraid to squat. They are emotionally incapable of defying authority; of breaking the vicious circle of eviction and tenancy, eviction and tenancy.

The system has destroyed their ability to react against such moral and social inadequacies, even on a personal level. They are passive compliants in self-destructive pointless society based on necrophilia.

They will not, and cannot, actively participate in this society. They are the victims and will continue to be so.

All tenants are victims. Capitalism equates power with property with ownership. Hence tenants are by definition powerless in Australia. Eviction is a tenants way of life, poverty being the cause and the crime.

So what's new.



AN ALMOST CROSSWORD

This Puzzle is not definitive
make up your own answers if you like.

DOWN.

1. an activity undertaken by Homeless people
on Low incomes - and what this Mag is all about.

2. Strange People who believe in Liberty
unrestricted by man made Laws.

3. The Position of Poor People.

4. When squatting it is a good idea to put up a
Door ----- stating your intentions.

5. Latin for 'New'

6. A pittance given to the people there aren't
enough jobs for to keep them from Rioting.

7. KNOW your -----.

8. What it is becoming increasingly difficult to breathe.

9. The sex that is currently in power.

10. Ministry Of Housing -(Easy)

20. It's a useful thing to be ----- by the
Local residents when you squat.

DIGONAL.

2 our near Neibor, or ASIO mispelled.

ACROSS.

1. it doesn't really shine out of Joff's arse.

3. stupid, inefficient, unnecessary bungling
----- crats.

4? - backwards

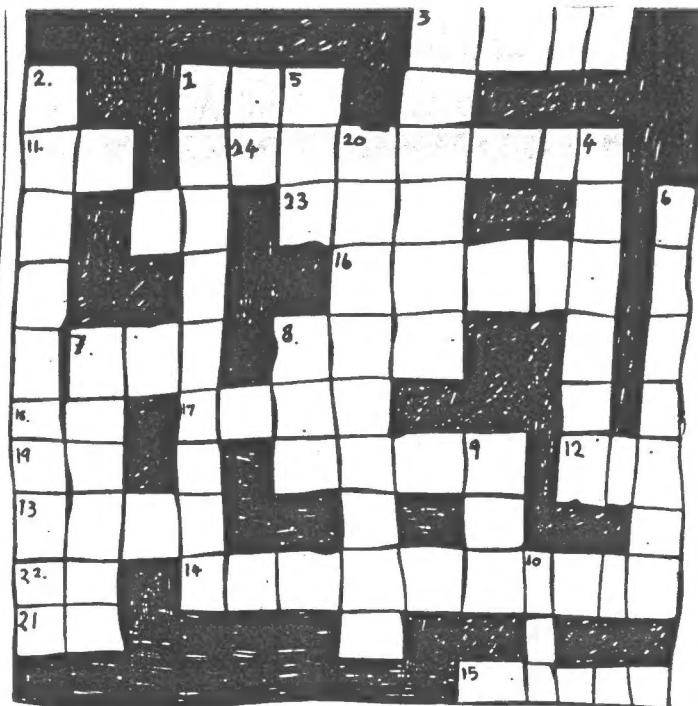
7. What some people are willing to let houses do
while others sleep on the streets

8. The only paper mill I know of that Recycles.

9. the noise a car makes backwards.

11. National Service

(except its not in the shape of a Cross)



12. A being that squats in Mushrooms.

13. A painful (and common) place to be kicked.

14. THE ENEMY.

15. You can wear them out looking for somewhere to live

16. "its Rude to -----"

17. a threesome.

18. Slang form of address.

19. Short for iguana.

21. Social Security, Secret Service etc. +

22. Tenancy Tribunal.

23. What the owner will want you to be.

UP.

24. W.



EVENTS MEETINGINGS ACTIONS PLACES BENIFIT GIGS HAPPENINGS AND ETC

for Wimmin in intolerable Living situations:

- young wimmins Housing collective shopfront - 288 smith st collingwd. 4176988 K
- Wimmins Refuge Referrals: 3298433 - connections will all ♀ Refugees.

ENERGY ACTION GROUP: MEETING 30th January & every 4th Thurs in month
272 George St Fitzroy PH. 232 7938 MORE CONCERNING DISCRIMINATING DISCONNECTION
DISCONNECTIONS. CONTACT THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE TO KEEP YOUR
POWER ON HOUSE WARM AND FOOD COOKED.

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS UNION NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
31ST DECEMBER. 8 TIL LATE. DONATION ENTRY.

COALITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PEACE EMBASSY IN 1986 (INTER. YEAR OF PEACE)

Po Box 385 301 St CARLTON 3053 VIC. PH. 663-3842.

PEOPLE AGAINST ID NUMBERS (P.A.I.N.) MEETING EVERY MONDAY 6pm
ROOM 10 3rd FLOOR YWCA ELIZABETH ST CITY OR 49 PEEL ST WEST MELB.
PHONE 328 4988

TENANTS UNION 419 5577-FOR ALL YOUR LANDLORD PROBLEMS

FITZROY MARKET STILL SURVIVES COUNCIL BASHINGS. NEW LOCATION AT THE
OLD FIRE STATION 301 St GEORGES RD FITZROY. EVERY SATURDAY FREE
STALLS EVERYONE WELCOME NOTHING BANNED! Admission is free.

DOWNTO EARTH CONFEST JANUARY 1986 24th-26th ph 6631561

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS UNION 301 St GEORGES RD FITZROY PH 4811155

Disgusted with the bizarre Consumer Spectacle that is called Christmas? etc.
Leaflet - rally - dress up as Santa and give gifts stolen from store displays - Put stickers on toys.

Anarchist bookshop has a stall at the FITZROY
"MARKET" - And we are available for other markets
and fêtes, festivals etc - we have no fixed abode as yet
but we're working on it.

NEXT SQUATTERS UNION MEETING TO BE HELD
AT 215 VICTORIA PDE. AT 4.30pm WED 8TH
JANUARY & every 4 fortnight after that.
WED

If you want more copies of this fab Publication - Put this one on a photocopier!

The squatters union of victoria is a volunteer based group which relies on public support, donations, information sharing and participation. if you know of empty houses, want to give monetary substances, have spare furniture or want to participate in any way contact S.U.V. on ph: 419 0047 or call in at 215 Victoria Parade, Collingwood. (we even have access to a coffee machine). Hours roughly 10 to 4 - but leave a message if no-one is there